

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
ROOM 211
FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. POST OFFICE
225 SOUTH PIERRE STREET
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-2463

IRVIN N. HOYT
BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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January 27, 2006

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Rosana Olson Hedahl
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Subject: *In re Christian J. Tapken*,
Chapter 7, Bankr. No. 05-42109

Dear Mr. Gauer and Ms. Olson Hedahl:

The matter before the Court is the *Motion to Extend Time to File Complaint Objecting to Discharge Under 11 U.S.C. § 727* filed by MetaBank and the objection thereto filed by Rosana Olson Hedahl. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). This letter decision and accompanying order shall constitute the Court's findings and conclusions under Fed.Rs.Bankr.P. 7052 and 9014(c). As set forth below, the Motion will be granted.

Summary. Christian J. Tapken ("Debtor") filed a Chapter 7 petition in bankruptcy on October 12, 2005. On his schedules, Debtor included MetaBank among his secured creditors. Debtor included Rosana Olson Hedahl among his general, unsecured creditors but did not describe her claim.

Pursuant to Fed.R.Bankr.P. 4004(a), the deadline to file a complaint objecting to a discharge in the case was January 23, 2006. On January 13, 2006, MetaBank filed a *Motion to Extend Time to File Complaint Objecting to Discharge Under 11 U.S.C. § 727* ("Motion to Extend"). MetaBank requested an extension to March 9, 2006, of the deadline to file a denial of discharge complaint against Debtor under § 727. MetaBank said it had not yet completed its review of three companies in which Debtor was an officer, director, or shareholder. Rosana Olson Hedahl filed an objection

to the motion on January 23, 2006. She argued:

Metabank's discussions with Debtor regarding a potential resolution of any complaint under 11 U.S.C. Chapter 727, are not hindered by the Debtor's discharge under 11 U.S.C. Chapter 727.

Upon information and belief, Metabank, has previously been involved in a financial arrangement with the Debtor, DNAG, SDAC, and Victory Properties, without any oversight, from the United States Bankruptcy Court, and/or Your Honor. Metabank, a publicly traded, and federally insured savings and loan, does not need to waste the Court's time or resources, for the above mentioned purpose.

Discussion. The deadline for filing a denial of discharge complaint under § 727 may be extended "for cause." Fed.R.Bankr.P. 4004(b). The motion requesting the extension must be filed before the original deadline for filing a § 727 complaint expires. *Id.*

Cause under Rule 4004(b) is not defined within the rule. Courts have considered several factors when faced with the issue. These factors include:

(1) whether the debtor refused in bad faith to cooperate with the creditor; (2) whether the creditor had sufficient notice of the deadline and the information to file an objection; (3) the possibility that the proceedings pending in another forum will result in collateral estoppel on the relevant issues; (4) whether the creditor exercised diligence; and (5) the complexity of the case.

In re Nickolas C. Ballas, 2005 WL 2621512, slip op. at 2 (citing *European American Bank v. Benedict (In re Benedict)*, 90 F.3d 50, 55 (2nd Cir. 1996); *In re Weinstein*, 234 B.R. 862, 866 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1999); *In re Mendelsohn*, 202 B.R. 831, 832 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1996); and *Santana Olmo v. Quinones Rivera (In re Quinones Rivera)*, 184 B.R. 178, 183 (Bankr. D.P.R. 1995)). The moving party should show he has exercised due diligence before being given a reasonable extension. *Ballas*, slip op. at 2 (cites therein); *Kohl v. Loeffgren (In re Loeffgren)*, 305 B.R. 288, 290 (W.D. Wis. 2003). See generally *Kontrick v. Ryan*, 540 U.S. 443 (2004) (discussion of Rule 4004 and its implications).

Based on the factors above, MetaBank's request is reasonable. The financial tangles of the three businesses in which Debtor was involved are not easily unsnarled. Moreover, there is no

